

## Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-14

DRC-01 /097 W

----- 047405

R 060515Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9640

INFO CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 20456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: SHIFT TO MORE MOBILE DEFENSE IN MR 4

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON DEC 4

REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE CAN THO 0863

1. AS INDICATED IN CAN THO 0839 AND 0826 IV CORPS IS  
ENGAGED IN A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON STATIC  
DEFENSE (FIXED OUTPOSTS) AND MAKE A LARGER PROPORTION OF  
TERRITORIAL FORCES (RF AND PF) AVAILABLE FOR MOBILE  
EMPLOYMENT.

2. ON DECEMBER 3 IV CORPS COMMANDER MG NGUYEN VINH NGHI CITED  
THE FOLLOWING REASONS FOR THIS SHIFT:

(A) IT WILL PUT GVN FORCES IN THE DELTA IN A BETTER  
POSITION TO COPE WITH AN ENEMY OFFENSIVE SHOULD IT  
MATERIALIZE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN LIGHT OF  
DEPARTURE OF THE RANGERS FROM MR 4 BY DECEMBER 25.

(B) IT WILL MAKE ADDITIONAL FORCES AVAILABLE TO TAKE  
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THE INITIATIVE AND KEEPTHE ENEMY OFF BALANCE. NGHI SAYS SOME OF

THE EFFECTS OF THIS ARE ALREADY BEING SEEN IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE.

(C) VULNERABILITY OF UNITS IN SMALL ISOLATED OUTPOSTS WILL  
BE REDUCED.

3. THE PROGRAM IS NOT A HASTY ONE BUT IS TO BE CAREFULLY  
REVIEWED OVER THE NEXT MONTH OR SO. FIXED OUTPOSTS ARE TO BE  
LEFT AT POPULATED AREAS. OUTPOSTS WILL ALSO BE LEFT IN OR AT  
THE PERIPHERY OF VC MINI-BASES. THOSE WITHDRAWN WILL BE FROM  
UNPOPULATED OR VERY SPARSLY POPULATED AREAS WHICH WILL BE  
COVERED BY MOBILE OPERATIONS. IN SOME CASES, OUTPOSTS TO BE  
ABANDONED BY THE PF ARE TO BE TAKEN OVER BY THE PSDF. THERE  
IS TO BE LESS RELIANCE ON FIXED OUTPOSTS AND GREATER USE OF  
MOBILE FORCES TO BLOCK INFILTRATION ROUTES. IN OTHER WORDS,  
REDUCTION OF FIXED OUTPOSTS WILL BE SELECTIVE. IN CHUONG  
THIEN PROVINCE, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ABOUT 20  
FIXED OUTPOSTS WILL BE DROPPED.

4. THIS SHIFT IN DELTA TACTICS IS DICTATED BY THE ENEMY  
IMPOSED EXIGENCIES OF THE SITUATION. THE CONTINUING  
INFILTRATION OF PERSONNEL AND AMMUNITION, AS WELL AS  
HARASSMENT AND ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND THE  
POPULATION, LEAVE THE GVN NO REAL ALTERNATIVE TO AN  
AGGRESSIVE DEFENSE. FROM THE MILITARY STANDPOINT, SUCCESS  
OF THE PROGRAM WILL HINGE LARGEMLY ON HOW AGGRESSIVELY THESE  
NEWLY AVAILABLE MOBILE ASSETS WILL BE USED BY GVN COMMANDERS.

SIGNED LEHMANN UNQUOTE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY PLANS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON20456  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 89  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SHIFT TO MORE MOBILE DEFENSE IN MR 4 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON DEC 4  
**TAGS:** MOPS, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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